



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

For Immediate Release: Contact Anne Fitzgerald
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302.698.4520
302.242.4092 (Cell)

Number of pages:

DDA Forest Service to dispatch wildland fire crew to Montana

Delaware's Forest Service is dispatching a 20 person fire crew (their third crew this summer) to assist with the national firefighting efforts in what has become an extremely dangerous summer of wildland fires. They have been assigned to the Jocko Lakes Fire near Missoula, Montana which has burned over 35,000 acres to date. The National Fire Preparedness Level for this season has risen to a level 5, on a scale of 1-5 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/news/fire/>), with continued hot, dry and windy conditions forecast. When Delaware's crews went out in July, they faced a National Fire Preparedness Level of 4.

The crew will depart on Saturday, August 25, at approximately 5 AM from Blackbird State Forest, 502 Blackbird Forest Road, Townsend, Delaware 19734. The crew will then travel to the Philadelphia International Airport to board a commercial flight to their assigned fire site. Scheduled return date for crew members is September 9, 2007.

Michael Scuse, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, said, "I am extremely proud of our dedicated fire crew members who are so willing to give of themselves to help other states save life, property, and our country's resources from the ravages of wildland fire. Only specially trained firefighters are eligible to serve on a western fire crew. Our men and women are certified wildland fire personnel who have received training that is second to none. Not only do they help our fellow Americans, they are ready at a moment's notice to help us here in Delaware."

Crew Members:

Name

Michael Valenti
Michael K. Brown
Matt Dotterer
Howard Harrison
Sergio Castillo
Todd W. Shaffer
Franklin K. Mertz
Matthew James Hansen
Logan Fountain
Scott A. Veasey
Erich Burkentine
Jonathan Richardville
Daniel Donato

Home State (agency or area)

Delaware (Forest Service, Deputy Forestry Administrator)
Delaware (Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control)
Delaware (Milton)
Delaware (Wilmington)
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania
Delaware (Ellendale)
Delaware (Townsend)
Delaware (Millsboro)
Delaware Forest Service, Southern Regional Forester
Delaware (Wilmington)
Delaware (Wilmington)

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Crew Members:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Home State (agency or area)</u>
Andrew Scott Atkins	Delaware (Millsboro)
Monica Testa	Delaware (Wilmington)
Michael K. Sethman	Delaware (Middletown)
Timothy J. Moore	Delaware (New Castle)
Ryan LeCates	Delaware (Georgetown)
Robert Polen	Pennsylvania
Zachary Kane	Pennsylvania

On the world wide web: <Http://www.nifc.gov/nicc> <http://www.inciweb.org>

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